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SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA AWARDED GRANT AID FROM LLOYDS' BANK FUND  
FOR INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGISTS ... FOR A THIRD TIME ...

Subterranea Britannica's topographic and photographic surveys of the east Surrey Chaldon and Merstham quarries has again been awarded grant aid from the Lloyds' Bank Fund ... a further £ 75 to be devoted, largely, to the photographic survey. Basic topographic surveying, on the surface and underground, was completed in January. Geological and archaeological details have now to be added.

The surveying team (members of SB, Unit 2 Cave Research & Exploration, and Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society) have already commenced surveying in the Godstone Hill quarries a few miles further east in Surrey.

QUARRIES DISPLAY WINS MARGARY AWARD ...

A display featuring the Chaldon - Merstham quarries survey was mounted at the Surrey Archaeological Society's Excavations Committee's Annual Symposium in February ... and was awarded second prize (£ 25) in the Margary Award competition. The display has been requested for showing at the East Surrey Museum at Caterham during the summer months.

INTERNATIONAL STONE QUARRIES SYMPOSIUM ... MAASTRICHT (Zuid Limburg, Netherlands) ... 26 JULY to 12 AUGUST 1986 ...

Eef Smits huysen has now sent preliminary details for the programme for the symposium, as follows ...

Saturday 26 July Arrival at Maastricht ... dinner at 19.00 ...  
social evening ... slides

Sunday 27 July SB lectures 9.30 - 12.00  
Underground visits ... St. Pietersberg +  
Zonnenberg 14.00 ... dinner at 18.30 ...  
info - market and social evening 20.00

Monday 28 July French and Belgian delegates' lectures 9.30 - 12.00  
Underground visit ... Sibbergroeve 14.00 ...  
dinner at 19.00 ... slide shows 20.00 ...

Tuesday 29 July Studiegroep Onderaardse Kalksteengroeven  
lectures 9.30 - 12.00 ...  
Underground visits Noordelijk Stelsel St. Pieters-  
berg + Fort St. Pieter 14.00 ...  
dinner at 18.30 ... slide shows 20.00 ...

Wednesday 30 July Free day ... possible visits include Natural  
History Museum for old films of Limburg mines ...  
subterranean fortifications of Maastricht ...  
Jezuitenberg (Monks' Caves) ... or ~~Athena~~ isn't

far away!

Thursday 31 July Underground visits ... possibly to Geulhemergroeve and Barakkengroeve (Valkenburg, Netherlands) and Fort Eben Emael and Groeve de Keel (Belgium)

Friday 1 August Underground visits ... possibly to Rijckholt (flint mines) ... Valkenburg (catacombs) ... Caestert and Zichen (Belgium) etc

Accommodation will not, after all, be at Rijckholt Castle, but probably in old school buildings (sleeping bag spaces) much closer to Maastricht, and within 5 minutes walking distance of the St. Pietersberg quarry entrance. This is likely to be available at about Hfl. 6.50 (less than £ 2) per night; it is also possible to camp nearby; and there are hotels in Maastricht.

There will be a maximum of 50 places, so please contact Paul Sowan at once if you are interested - Dutch, Belgians and French are also expected. Paul has to send names and addresses of British participants to Eef Smitshuysen during April, and Eef will be sending out Symposium Information Packs early in May.

Symposium proceedings will be in English and French.

NAMHO FIELD WEEKEND ... 7th/8th June 1986 ... AYSGARTH  
in WENSLEYDALE ...

This year the Earby Mines Research Group will be hosting the NAMHO Field Weekend, based on Aysgarth Youth Hostel,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Aysgarth village, near the Palmer Flatts Hotel, on the A 684 between Hawes and Leyburn in Wensleydale.

There will be various surface and underground trips, departing from the YH at 9.30 a.m. each morning, using own transport; a social event is envisaged for the Saturday evening.

The YH sleeps 60 in dormitories or family rooms for 6 - 8 people; YHA membership is not obligatory. Those wishing to book should contact the YH Warden (David Wood), mentioning the 'NAMHO weekend.' Phone: Aysgarth 260.

Further details of the programme, and of campsites, B & B accommodation etc may be had (SAE) from J.D. Carlisle, Secretary, Earby Mines Research Group, 2 Florence Terrace, Rosedale East, Pickering, NORTH YORKSHIRE YO18 8RJ.

MR. SMITH'S CAVES AT DOVER ...

Ms. Thompson writes in Newsll. Kent Archaeological Society 10 (1986), p. 7, to enquire about a Mr. Smith's Caves, and Mr. Smith's Dwelling House at the Caves, at Dover, depicted in watercolours in her possession. 'The houses appear to have been constructed from up-turned boats and are situated under the cliffs just above H.W.L. I would estimate that they were not painted earlier than 1800 and they are not signed.'

Ms. Thompson would be grateful for any further information relating to these caves and houses.

## STONE MINE PLANS AVAILABLE FOR SALE ...

Surveys by members of Unit 2 Cave Research & Exploration ...  
two small stone quarry workings at Merstham, east Surrey ...

Quarry Dean Mine 1:500 1985

Football Field Mine 1:250 1981

50p each + 20p each p/p from the Chairman

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GEOLOGICAL VISITS TO QUARRIES, MINES AND CAVES

Free ... send a 4" x 9" SAE to ...

The Institution of Geologists  
Burlington House  
Piccadilly  
LONDON W1V 9HG

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MINE EXPLORATION ...

Free ... send a 4" x 9" SAE to ...

National Association of Mining History Organisations  
c/o Peak District Mining Museum  
The Pavilion  
MATLOCK BATH  
Derbyshire DE4 3NR

## MEANWHILE IN BRISTOL ...

Members who attended our earlier Bristol & Bath Study Weekend will know that Bristol is not short of features of underground interest ... the Temple Local History Group has recently published the results of some underground research ...

Julian Lea-Jones et al, St. John the Baptist Church - Medieval conduit at Bristol ... Temple Local History Group, 1984  
(v) + 54pp ISBN 0 951 0068 0 0 (Report and survey of features surviving in August 1984)

The TLHG's Newsletter 4/1985, also, reports progress with a similar study of 'Temple Conduit', Ravenswell to Neptune ... 'one of Bristol's medieval water systems ... and with further work in the Redcliffe Caves.

For further details, contact (SAE please) ...

Temple Local History Group  
33 Springfield Grove  
Henleaze  
BRISTOL BS6 7XE

## UNDERGROUND FLOODING SWAMPS CITY CENTRE ...

Underground flooding is deluging low lying areas of Nottingham city centre after a build-up of water over the past six months ...

Houses converted into offices in the Castle Boulevard area have had flooded cellars and tours of the cave network beneath the city have been cancelled ...

Council officials believe that because there are no easy escape routes for the water, an elaborate underground system will have to be constructed to cope with the build-up. The Times, 24 Feb 1986

## MORE SUSSEX RAILWAY TUNNELS ... EAST GRINSTEAD No. 1 and No. 2 ...

Phil Marshall wrote in connection with Peter Hay's article in Newsletter 6 to enquire about the present condition of East Grinstead No. 1 and No. 2 tunnels, listed in the Tunnel Study Society's guide as 78 yards and 48 yards long respectively.

The following information is from David Gould's Three Bridges to Tunbridge Wells ...

The contractor for the East Grinstead, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells Railway was John Watson & Co ...

By the end of October, 1863, a cutting over thirty feet deep had been driven through the Fair Field and a temporary tunnel about 70 yards long made, with shafts to facilitate earth removal, the tunnel being supported by timbers at the sides and roof. By December a second tunnel, under Lewes Road, had been driven with difficulty owing to the yielding, spongy clay through which it passed; but it was expected that bricking of this tunnel would soon be started. Powder was used to blast the cutting, and the clay tended to continue falling for some time after each explosion; on 11th April, 1865, one of the labourers, James Bourne, was buried up to his neck in a sudden slip and died four days later ...

The two tunnels, East Grinstead No. 1 (78 yards) under College Lane and No. 2 (48 yards) under Lewes Road were bricklined.

The single-track line was opened on 1 October 1866.

Although the editor of this Newsletter travelled through both tunnels by train, he regrets he remembers neither of them; in fact they were little more than long underbridges below the two roads named. They were NE and E of East Grinstead town centre.

In recent years, the line from East Grinstead (H.L.) to Forest Row, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells having been closed, the stretch running east from the station, and north and east of the town has been converted into a bypass road for traffic on the A22. The deep cutting has been widened out, and the 78 yard tunnel opened and out replaced by a conventional bridge which now carries College Lane. The bypass rejoins the A22 just east of the town centre, and in doing so evidently passes over the demolished and at least partially filled northern end of the No. 2 tunnel, the southern portal and approach tunnel having disappeared similarly as a result of the dumping of soil to restore the hillside contours. Southwards from here the trackbed is in use as a footpath.

Some years ago, during the widening of the cutting for the bypass, Unit 2 CRE investigated a small tunnel, not much more than a metre square, running towards the town from the cutting; it was not clear if this had been driven from the 1863 cutting, or intersected by it.

AND ANOTHER SUSSEX RAILWAY TUNNEL ... at the CHALK PITS MUSEUM  
at AMBERLEY ...

Another Sussex railway tunnel that 'got away' is the one made below a minor road to link two of Peppers' open chalk pits ... this is still in use in connection with the operating of the railway exhibits brought to the site from the former Brockham Railway Museum in Surrey.

MORE DETAILS ... FIRST INTERNATIONAL STONE QUARRIES SYMPOSIUM ...  
Maastricht ...

It is now confirmed that we shall have the use of the old school building near St. Pietersberg, where there will be 40 - 50 sleeping-bag places. Attempts are being made to obtain stretchers or camp beds on loan from the local civil defence organisation. There are toilets, showers, and a small kitchen. Accommodation here will cost about Hfl. 6.50 per night (about £ 1.50.)

Latest estimates for total costs (including sleeping bag places, meals, transport, papers &c) are of the order of Hfl. 30 per day.

BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WINS LLOYD'S BANK AWARD ...

SB is joined this year, in attracting funds for subterranean research, by the Bristol speleological Society, who were awarded £ 200 for wave survey equipment and archive storage materials. The Society is conducting a survey and recording programme in a recently discovered cave at Charterhouse Warren Farm on Mendip, Somerset. An adjacent site examined in the early 1970s produced pieces of worked flint, stone and animal bone. The new cave has yielded many bone samples, animal and human, and other artefacts. Deposits in the cave are considered of great importance as they are the only known cave deposits in the Mendips which have not been largely disturbed.

LESBIANS TAKE TO GENEVA AIR RAID SHELTERS ...

Geneva - Air-raid shelters have been opened to provide free accommodation for some of the 500 participants from 25 countries attending a four-day lesbian conference ...

The Times, 29 March 86

DEMONIC RITUALS in HOCKNEY WOOD, ESSEX ...

Self-styled Satanist Derry Mainwaring Knight claimed he had been "baptised" into devil worship with human blood, a court heard yesterday ...

Knight said that demonic rituals took place at the order's temple in a disused underground air-raid shelter in Hockney Wood, Essex ...

Unidentified newscutting, March 86

PEAK MINE APPROVED ...

Mining plans which split a Derbyshire Peak District community were approved yesterday. The Peak Park Planning Board approved an application from Laporte Industries for a fluorspar drift mine at Great Hucklow. ...

The mine will produce 85,000 tonnes of ore a year ... the last large untapped source of fluorspar in the Peak District.

The Guardian, 1 March 86

## PLATINUM FIND IN WELSH GOLD MINE ...

Cornish tin miners digging for gold in a remote Welsh valley have discovered platinum. The discovery, in the mine which provides gold for royal wedding rings, could be of great benefit to Britain if it is present in commercial quantities. Stringent EEC regulations on car exhaust fumes mean that all car manufacturers will require platinum which acts as a filter....

But the Clogau St. David's mine company, which has been digging into the Clogau mountain above the Mawddach Estuary in Gwynedd for two years, refused yesterday to discuss details of the find ...

Samples analysed have indicated that mining could yield at least a third of an ounce (? of gold) for each ton of shale, enough to make the venture profitable.

The Times, 13 February 1986

## UNDERGROUND RUMBLINGS SPARK FEAR OVER VAULTS ...

Fears about the security of bank strong rooms and shaky church foundations have united City institutions and the Bishop of London in opposition to the planned Tube extension for the docklands railway ...

The principal concern of the banks is over illegal entry during Underground works ...

The Times, 12 February 1986

## PRIVATE BID FOR TUNNEL ...

The Transport Department will this week invite private sector bids for a third crossing of the Thames at Dartford to relieve the expected pressure of traffic on the existing tunnels from the M25.

The Guardian, 25 March 1986

## CORNISH TIN 'CAN SURVIVE' ...

The Chairman of the Commons select committee studying the tin crisis said yesterday the industry in Cornwall should be able to survive.

Mr. Kenneth Warren, MP, said after visiting the Geevor tin mine near Land's End, that the price of tin should "settle down" at £ 6,500 a tonne, about £ 2,000 higher than the figures quoted recently in Malaysia but £ 2,000 lower than that level at which Geevor was selling when trading was suspended last October ...

... "Cornish tin mines should be under no illusion that the price of tin is going to be very competitive - but from what we've seen they should be able to compete."

The Guardian, 26 February 1986

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE .....

This volume, by U. Lindblom, is expected to be published by Elsevier in their Developments in Geotechnical Engineering series during 1986.

## MORRIS MEN IN DEPTH RECORD ...

Sixteen Morris men have set a world record for dancing at the greatest depth, by performing 1,100 ft underground at Calverton colliery, near Nottingham ...

The Times, 29 March 1986

## RESCUERS BATTLE TO REACH TRAPPED BOYS ...

Seven scouts were rescued yesterday after a terrifying five-hour ordeal half-a-mile below ground in a labyrinth of caves. Last night the boys, aged between 11 and 15, were still shaken and one received hospital treatment for exposure and shock.

The youngsters .. ran into trouble in the East Surrey potholes near Merstham. They became separated from the main group when one of them had problems with his torch. Scout leader Derek Hands, an experienced caver, later discovered what had happened and raised help.

Within minutes ambulancemen, firemen, police and a special caving unit were at the caves and launched a search ... Four firemen with breathing apparatus were lowered down a 20 feet shaft and crawled through 18 inch gaps to reach the trapped scouts.

Meanwhile the caving team entered the maze of tunnels from another direction to lead the scouts to safety ...

Today, 24 March 1986

## CAVE RESCUE AT MIDNIGHT ...

Rescue teams mounted a full emergency operation on Saturday after seven Scouts went missing in Merstham caves.

Fire, police, ambulance and a cave rescue unit were called to the scene in Rockshaw Road after the alarm was raised just after 11 pm.

... During their five hour ordeal the boys huddled together for warmth, shared sweets, and sang songs to keep their spirits up.

The helmet lamps blacked out after losing their way in the 10 miles of passageways, some less than three feet high. ...

... the boys were eventually found just after 12.30 am on Sunday ...

Peter Burgess of Unit Two Cave Research and Exploration was one of the rescue team which discovered the boys about 100 yards from the cave entrance. He said: "It is in the nature of these old underground quarries that one can rarely see more than 30 yards ahead and sound carries little further ..."

Surrey Mirror, 28 March 1986

## SCOUTS IN CAVE RESCUE ...

... the boys got lost in the caves at the weekend after taking a wrong turning. ... "We were on our way out when one of the Scouts dropped a torch. The group carried on in front of us ..."

... the lads were unlikely to have been in any danger. "They were found 100 yards from the entrance to the caves, and it took little more than five minutes to lead them out once we'd found them ..."

Coulsdon & Purley Advertiser,  
28 March 1986

## SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA TAKES TO THE AIR ,...

The latest approach to researching the Chaldon - Merstham quarries in Surrey is to have a look at the quarry areas from the air. Nick Catford, Malcolm Tadd and Paul Sowan have all gone up with SB member and pilot Rod Le Gear, flying from Biggin Hill and along the North Downs escarpment from Westerham to Brockham and back. Photography is planned.

## NEWSLETTER SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA ... WHAT DO MEMBERS WANT?

This is your newsletter. During the first seven issues a variety of items has appeared ... let the editor know what sorts of things you want in your newsletter ... better still, write something yourself!

## BACK TO ICELAND ,,,

A 'nuclear bunker for civil defence' is being constructed below the Police HQ in Reykjavik

## JOHN HORNE TOOKE'S TOMB AT WIMBLEDON ...

Among the singularities of Horne Tooke was that of superintending the erection of a tomb for himself in his garden at Wimbledon, and writing his own epitaph. This tomb consisted of a brick vault, placed on the top of a tumulus in his kitchen garden. The slab that covered the top of the cenotaph was a piece of black Irish marble, on which he caused to be cut the following inscription, leaving his friends to insert the date of his death:-

John Horne Tooke, late proprietor, and now occupier of this spot, was born in June 1736 and died ..... in the ..... year of his age, contented and grateful.

... in superintending the erection of his tomb he actually became so ill, in consequence of exposure to the cold air, that it was feared he would accelerate the event for which he had been preparing. ...

... but his wish to be buried in the tomb ... was not complied with by his executors.

W.H. Howe, Everybody's Book of Epitaphs

Tooke (1736 - 1812) was the priest which the Clergy Disqualification Act, 1801, was designed to keep out of the Houses of Parliament! His best-known work, Diversions of Purley, had nothing to do with traffic on the Brighton Road, but was a philological work written during his residence at Purley House. He was buried at Ealing.

## INTERNATIONAL MINING HISTORY REVIEW ...

The National Association of Mining History Organisations, of which SE is a member, is considering publication of an International Mining History Review. The proposal arose from a discussion meeting at the last NAMHO Conference at Matlock Bath.

## TUNNELLERS SET A NEW RECORD ...

A team of tunnellers working in the new Selby coalfield are claiming three new world records. Digging a 20-foot diameter circular roadway, they tunnelled 19 metres in a single shift, 43 metres in a day, and 452.4 metres in a week. The team is working round the clock from the Gascoigne Wood drift mine ... driving through solid rock with a £ 3 million tunnelling machine ...

London Standard, 5 February 1986

## PLOUGH TURNS UP ANCIENT TOMB ...

A farmer ploughing his field near Elgin, Morayshire, has unearthed a 4,000-year-old tomb of sandstone slabs. The Bronze Age skeleton is extremely well preserved ... The Times, 12 Nov 1985



## SOBERES ... BULLETIN d'INFORMATION ...

Issue 12 of our Belgian counterpart's Bulletin d'Information, published in 1985, includes articles and notes on a Musee du Champignon at Saumur; Exposition 150<sup>eme</sup> anniversaire du Canal Charleroi Bruxelles; ... visite des souterrains de Charleroi ...; and several contributions relating to things seen during the 1985 International Conference at Denezé - sous - Doué in France.

## STUDIEGROEP ONDERAARDSE KALKSTEENGROEVEN ... MEDEDELINGEN ...

Two issues of our Dutch colleagues' journal (numbers 7 and 8, 1985) have recently arrived. They contain articles on bats, working techniques in the quarries, graffiti, flooding in the quarries, etc.

## PROPHETIC PROPERTY UP FOR SALE ...

Old Mother Shipton, the ancient prophetess of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, is up for sale at £ 485,000. The sale includes the cave, petrifying springs, wishing well, etc ...

The Guardian, 18 January 1986

## GO - AHEAD FOR N - BUNKER ...

A £ 2 million commercial nuclear bunker where members of the public can reserve places for around £ 2,000 each is to be built in Peterborough after Environment Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker, yesterday withdrew his objections to the scheme ...

The Guardian, 30 Nov 1985

## CAVES CASH SHOCK ...

A mass survey into the caves under Reigate Town Centre have kicked a big hole in the Borough's budget. And while work goes on, diversions will stay in force until next March. Members of the Town Hall's Finance Committee agreed to dig deeper into the budgets ... and fork out a further £ 50,000 for the geological survey - in addition to the £ 33,000 already put aside ...

... a report from the Royal School of Mines. Its survey has confirmed that previous records contained gross errors and that there has been rapid deterioration of the sandstone in the past few years. Extensive remedial works are necessary ...

Surrey Mirror, 13 September 1985

## BOYS TRAPPED IN DRAIN RECOVER ...

Two boys, who were swept 200 yards along an underground drain at Newton Abbot, Devon, were recovering at home yesterday ...

... swept into the drain by rising tide water while playing with an inflatable dinghy.

The Guardian, 27 Jan 1986

## NUCLEAR BUNKER LEAKING ...

A nuclear bunker near Cardiff which is supposed to be radiation-proof and able to withstand a nuclear explosion, has been found to have a leaking roof. The building at Coryton has been designated by the Home Office as an emergency centre for wartime administration ...

The Guardian, 24 January 1986

## KENT COALMINE IS REPRIEVED ...

Tilmanstone colliery, the largest of the three pits in the Kent coalfield, has been reprieved from closure. Like its neighbour, Betteshanger, it has shown a marked improvement in productivity since the National Coal Board proposed closure last June ... Betteshanger is under a similar partial reprieve.

The Guardian, 4 February 1986

## UNDERGROUND QUARRIES AT MINDEN ...

A chance conversation over breakfast at a B & D in Wiltshire recently referred to extensive underground quarries at Minden in Germany which had been used during the war.

Can any readers throw any further light on these?

## NEWS FROM NOTTINGHAM ...

The latest Journal of the Nottingham Historical Arts Society to be received contains ...

A reprinted letter of 20 February 1773 to Burbage's Nottingham Chronicle concerning a 'cave' ...

Martin Coleman's article Excavations at the old 'wrestlers' (dealing with cellars at Sneinton) ...

Fauline Dewberry's Exploration of caves behind No. 20 Hockley ...

Peter Hunt's Extracts from 'The Catacombs of Rome' and First Interim Report : High Pavement School Site ... and ...

Maureen Mahony's The Lord Nelson, Carlton Street ... (caves) ...

## DINORWIG RELICS TRUNDLE SOUTH ...

Relics from the disused Dinorwig slate quarry have been recovered from the slopes of North Western Region's "power mountain" in Snowdonia. Coal wagons, slate wagons and rubbish wagons as well as an old slate cutter and two ancient wheelbarrows have been found at the quarry on Ellidir Fawr mountain, which houses the giant pumped storage power station.

Now the industrial "treasures" are to find a new home in Surrey where they will be lovingly restored by a group of enthusiasts who are already proud owners of a Dinorwig quarry steam locomotive.

Surrey Light Railway representatives asked power station manager Mike Hancock for permission to retrieve and restore any items remaining on the quarry site... First choice was given to the National Museum of Wales slate museum in Llanberis, but their collection was complete and so the Surrey railmen were given the go-ahead ...

Fower News, December 1985

## £ 1 M EXTRA FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING RESEARCH ...

As concern grows over the disintegration of the network of Victorian tunnels and conduits that carry the bulk of Britain's storm water and drainage system, the Government's Science and Engineering Research Council has increased its support ... (including) ... locating underground cavities ...

The Times, 6 September 1985